

THE reader has often heard of the assembled wisdom of the nation, as applied to Congress. The *Washington Chronicle* is authority for saying that the following endorsement appears on an account presented for payment to one of the departments, which will give the aforesaid reader an idea as to the calibre of some of the material which constitute this assembled wisdom:

"I hereby certify that I am personally acquainted with the circumstances in this case and am satisfied that the services were rendered and money expended as stated within and I am satisfied that the claim is just and right and I respectfully recommend the payment."

Member of Congress.

THE last speech made by Senator Sumner in opposition to the Centennial appropriation, in which he made these strong points: "We are now that it is an appropriation bill in disguise; it is so to be treated. Although they only call it now for \$3,000,000, yet no person familiar with the subject supposes that, if once committed to law, it can stop there. I have heard a very experienced person, as familiar with this question as any one, knowing the course of things in Europe, say that we cannot go to the end without \$20,000,000."

A PET BEAR LOOSE.

Yesterday evening Mr. Spencer's pet bear got loose at Mr. Bower's, the corner of Union and Sande Streets, Mr. Spencer's boarding house, and coming up to the corner of Gay and Union Streets, made a furious attack on the apple stand at the corner. The owner of the stand tried to frighten him off with his hat, but found that it wouldn't do, and had to use his chair. The bear then got after some boys, and made them fairly "dust," and next proceeded to enter the store of Mr. Bower, but prevented by the door being quickly closed. He again crossed the street and entered Mr. Lock's store, and after prowling around behind the counter, frightening the boys, and then to turn over the stove, proceeded to a little house back of the store, where Mr. Spencer, the owner, finally recaptured him, and took him home, with some difficulty. The affair caused great excitement, and a large crowd had gathered to see the "wild animal." *Knoxville Chronicle, March 17.*

CHARACTER OF GEN. LEE.

The more the thought and individual feeling of Gen. Lee become known, the more we see how grave and considerate, wise in his rare common sense, unselfish and noble he was. From the recent speech before the Southern Historical Society at Atlanta, of the Hon. B. H. Hill, we cannot refrain from giving two extracts—the former of which shows his opinion of military Presidents, and the latter gives us a glimpse of the reason of quiet from that only on rare occasions came to the surface:

"Ah, General," I said, "but you will have to change that rule, and form and express political opinions; for, if we establish our independence, the people will make you Mr. Davis' successor." "Never, sir," he replied with a firm dignity that belonged only to Lee. "That I will never permit. Whatever talents I may possess, and they are limited, are military talents. My education and training are military. I think the military and civil talents are distinct, if not different, and full duty in either sphere is almost impossible. One man can qualify himself to perform. I shall not do the people the injustice to accept high civil office, with these questions it has not been my business to become familiar with."

"We made a great mistake," Mr. Hill, in the beginning of our struggle." "Why, sir, in the beginning we appointed our worst Generals to command the armies and our best to lead the troops to edit the newspapers. As you know, I have planned some campaigns, and quite a number of battles. I have given the work all the care and thought I could, and sometimes I have been charged with some of the most important ones, and they seemed to be perfect. But when I have fought them through I have discovered defects, and occasionally wondered I did not see some of them in advance. When it was all over I found, by reading the newspapers, that these best edited Generals saw all the defects from the start. Unfortunately, they did not communicate their knowledge to me until it was too late." Then, after a pause, he added with a beautiful, grave expression I can never forget: "I have no ambition but to serve the Confederacy and do all I can for it, and I am independent. I am willing to serve in any capacity which the authorities may assign me. I have done the best I could in the field, and have not yet succeeded as I could wish. I am willing to give my place to these best Generals, and I will do my best for the cause editing a newspaper!"

Schooppe.

BALTIMORE, March 18.—Paul Schooppe was arrested in this city today, charged with being a common swindler. Several passes on railroads were in his possession, all bearing the name of J. P. Schultzeberg. The accused was committed to wait the action of the grand jury.

Mail Robber Arrested.

RICHMOND, Va., March 18.—Capt. Frey, Special Agent of the Postoffice Department, and his assistants, E. J. Allen, and W. T. Henderson, special agent from Baltimore, succeeded in tracing a number of recent robberies of letters from mail coaches. His room was searched, and checks, drafts and money orders to a large amount found. Losses by these robberies aggregate about \$30,000, although most of the paper stolen was useless to the robber.

ALABAMA.

Heavy Floods between Montgomery and Mobile.

MONROEVILLE, March 18.—The Alabama river has overflowed its banks in many places, and all the creeks and streams are greatly swollen. Travel to Mobile is stopped by reason of washes on the railroad track and damage to some bridges. No trains went out today on the roads to Atlanta and the trains to Mobile will not run for a day or two. The freshet is too early to injure planters as very little of the crop has been planted.

MEMPHIS.

HEAVY FLOODS. The officers of the steamer Pilot Allen say the St. Francis river is rising rapidly from the overflow in the vicinity of New Madrid. All the levees in the vicinity of the mouth of that river are under water; also those at Walnut Bend. The river here has fallen two inches. The weather is sultry. Heavy rain and thunder storm this afternoon.

PETROLIA.

12,000 Barrels of Oil Struck by Lightning. PETERSBURG, March 18.—A Chronicle contains the report that a tank containing 12,000 barrels of oil, on the Grant farm, near that place, was struck by lightning today, setting it on fire. The fire was soon under control, the oil being pumped from the tank. The loss will be heavy.